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Apex : A Point of Departure, Vol.1, No.09 (October 1992)


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Naomi Falcone

Diane Matthews

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FALWELL THREATENED

Lynchburg, VA - Jerry Falwell, who claimed he narrowly escaped injury at the hands of an angry California Gay mob last year, claimed that an anonymous Queer Nation Member has threatened his life with HIV-infected "human urine."

Falwell said that someone sent a package of "human urine" and "vulgar, terribly hard-core pornography" to his offices. The package, he said, also contained a letter that was signed "Queer Nation," stating, "whoever opens it, he is infected; you are now infected and you will die now," and that Queer Nation "will kill you."

John Woods, spokesman for a Queer Nation chapter in San Francisco, denied any knowledge of the package, noting that "we don't ordinarily advocate killing people. Certainly we don't condemn the anger that probably contributed to the death threats."

"He [Falwell] seems to have some kind of fixation on Queer Nation. We're not that preoccupied with him, but it's more publicity for us."

LEGAL BREASTS

New York - The New York Court of Appeals ruled that women are legally free to bare their breasts in public, as long as they don't behave "lewdly" when doing so.

Seven women filed a lawsuit after they were arrested in 1986 for baring their breasts in a public park in Rochester. The women, several of whom were lesbians, challenged a city ordinance that made it illegal for women to expose their breasts. A group of men successfully challenged a similar ordinance aimed at their chests in 1936.

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Apex

A POINT OF DEPARTURE

VOL. 1, NO. 9

October 1992

COME OUT . . . AND VOTE



Mark Ilvonen picnics in protest (see page 3)

photo by Annette Dragon

October 11 is National Coming Out Day and November 3 is Election Day. Coming out is a powerful process, important not only for your own health but for the collective well-being of all queers. The more of us there are, the more power we have. . . Out of the closets and into the voting booths!!

In case you need extra incentive to vote against Bush/Quayle, here are even more reasons from *Spy* magazine's *1,000 Reasons Not to Vote for George Bush* (July/August 1992):

Reason No. 376: On June 4, 1990, the first anniversary of Tiananmen Square, he treated his family to dinner at the Peking Gourmet in D.C.

Reason No. 306: In August 1991 he officially removed 30 million acres from federal wetlands protection simply by calling them something else.

Reason No. 275: Seventy percent of the 142,000 tons of bombs the U.S. dropped [during the Gulf war] missed their targets.

Reason Nos. 782-783: When his campaign chairman, Robert Mosbacher, met with gay leaders, the White House instantly issued a statement describing the meeting as a "personal decision" undertaken by Mosbacher "for the sake of his daughter," who is a lesbian activist. Soon after, Dan Quayle ate at a restaurant in Tennessee notorious for not hiring homosexuals.

Reason No. 568: He halted the identification of species that might require protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Reason No. 172: He opposed requiring warning labels on aspirin bottles; thousands of children developed Reye's Syndrome. ▼

**MORE ELECTION
INFORMATION
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LETTERS

The Collective

Annette Dragon
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Madeleine Winter

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Maureen Hannigan Bee Bell
Susanne Salkind Thighmaster

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Phoenix Press is a collectively run organization whose purpose is to build and empower our community by providing positive lesbian/gay images. We will be a forum for the exchange of ideas through debate and discussion. The collective will work to reflect the political and social diversity of our community.

SUBMISSIONS

All submissions should be typed and double-spaced if at all possible. Please include your name and phone number in case we have any questions. Your name will be withheld at your request, but any material received without a contact name or number will not be published. Submissions *must* be received by the 20th of each month. Thank you for your contributions.

P.O. Box 4743
Portland, ME 04112
(207) 282-8091

©1992 Phoenix Press

Dear Apex:

Recently a lesbian friend shared an unsettling story with us concerning two women from your publication. We trust that the story is true because this friend is honest and reliable, but sincerely wish that it not be true. The story goes that the two women left a party shortly after a man arrived, but before leaving made a point of letting the hostess know that they were leaving the all woman party because the man was there, not because he said or did anything but simply because of his gender. We find this to be offensive, not because we are men but because this reeks of discrimination, intolerance, hatred, prejudice and bigotry.

As individuals and owners of Drop Me A Line... we embrace diversity and cooperation within our Lesbian and Gay community and the community at large. However, our endorsement of diversity ends when bigotry is part of that diversity. We certainly try to understand the difficulty which all women have lived and continue to live because of an oppressive, conservative, white male dominated society. We promote feminist ideology as long as discrimination isn't a means to the end. This is a belief we uphold no matter what the cause. Discrimination is never justifiable. We also feel that it is hypocritical for you to accept paid advertising from the very segment of the population that you choose to discriminate against. I guess it is easier for us to rationalize prejudice when it is based upon ignorance, but discrimination based upon a moral choice is most vial [sic].

Unfortunately, for all of us your actions reflect badly on the entire Lesbian and Gay community. At this critical time when the Equal Protection Portland ordinance is being challenged we are increasingly under public scrutiny. While we are trying so hard to educate the public that prejudice, intolerance and discrimination is unacceptable, it is contradictory for an element of our community to encourage such behavior.

We believe that being business owners we have a heightened responsibility to set a good example because we are more visible [sic] and as a result represent our community in the public's eye. With this philosophy in mind we have made a concerted effort to support lesbian and gay organizations, and our local publications while shaping our business to cater to everyone - lesbian, gay, bisexual, and heterosexual. With each product we consider offering in our store we ask ourselves, "Is this offensive to women?" Admittedly, as a man raised in a typical patriarchal [sic] environment it isn't always easy but we educate ourselves and as a result educate the public. We were glad to support APEX despite [sic] some cautious warnings concerning your apparent man hate philosophy. Quite honestly, we talked seriously of increasing our advertising with you because we admired your professionalism and really wanted to help those that needed the most support at the time. Our P.R. work and promotion of your news journal we believe has been invaluable. What happened at the party changes our commitment [sic] to your publication if it is true. Though your news journal doesn't openly express your personal prejudice we fear that once you gain financial security you'll feel at ease to use APEX to express and promote your intolerance.

We will not allow ourselves or Drop Me A Line... to be used as a vehicle to ultimately promote hatred of any kind. In short, we will no longer advertise in your publication, fundraise or promote your publication. We will continue to distribute APEX from our store but not in an active manner and only until the day that your publication encourages hatred, prejudice, intolerance, discrimination, and bigotry. At that time your publication would no longer be considered acceptable for our store. Women like the two from your publication are ripping the Lesbian and Gay community apart. If you must, do it in some other country or at least some other

More LETTERS ➡ page 9

apex \ˈā-peks\ *n.* 1 **a:** the uppermost point: VERTEX (the ~ of a mountain) **b:** the narrowed or pointed end: TIP (the ~ of the tongue) 2: the highest or culminating point (the ~ of her career) **syn** see SUMMIT.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the collective.

NO BUSINESS AS USUAL - this month in local activism

by Bee Bell

Southern Maine's latex rebels bestowed their favors on three high schools this opening season - using new, more womanly safe sex kits. ACT UP/Portland lived up the first week of school at Portland High, the more prison-like Deering High in suburban Portland, and the downright scary Kennebunk High School. At Kennebunk, ACT UP was joined by Teen Actions Save Lives (TASL), students who risked expulsion merely for bringing condoms onto school grounds.

Superintendents, principals, and teachers stood around, ordering kids to "go right to class, don't take anything" when ACT UP members rushed school property. If that brigade of administrators had only known what *else* was in those condom packets, they would have really lost it. Yes, latex gloves now grace every safe sex kit, in blatant service of dykesex and other nontraditional acts. (You can make a cheap and flexible dental dam out of a glove by cutting off the fingers, slicing the glove down the side, and leaving on the thumb for tongue action.) Police ushered ACT UP off school grounds twice, and particularly hated it when two bitchin' gals dashed across an open field to give armloads of gloves and condoms to grateful teens sitting in a classroom window. They hate to see you so free.

Speaking of liberty, why can teens

be expelled for this? See, in Kennebunk High, all literature and materials have to be AUTHORIZED by the school - i.e., the local government - before students can pass them to one another. Sound a little Stalinesque to you? It is. Want to liberate local youth from adults'



Condom Distribution 101

photo by Annette Dragon

death-dealing homophobia, sex-paranoia and censorship? Join the Condom Crusade.

In response to the Republicans' toxic talk of "family values," an alliance of feminists, queers, and AIDS activists held a family protest picnic at the Portland Bush/Quayle office on 9/10. Marilyn Quayle was nice enough to stop by, no kidding. She was treated to tunes of "We ARE Family" on the boom box, hoola hooping activists eating PB&J on Wonder Bread, general disruption, and a kerosene-doused flaming Dan Quayle head on a stick.

Got to get 'em to flame somehow. The "open house," however, was no more open than the GOP "family": cops pushed back protestors and kept people from entering as chants of "What do we need? Queer cops! When do we need 'em? Now!" filled the air. Even after Marilyn Quayle had exited, smiling her vast and bone-chilling smile at the activists' anger, individuals were refused entry into the open house. Yet staffers had no answers for queries about abortion and queer civil rights. As Queer Nation's Edie Hoffman put it, "All I want to do is go in there, have a finger sandwich, and talk about the Family Leave Act!" No dice. And FamVal queen Bush is again threatening to veto Family Leave.

By the time you read this, less than 35 days will remain for Portland's effort to stop the repeal of our civil rights. This is not work for somebody else to do. This belongs to us all. It could save your job, or save you from eviction.

Where is everybody, then? The Equal Protection/Portland campaign sorely, sorely needs your money, your time, your labor, your enthusiasm, your talent, your courage. These are ways for you to join the movement and make it more than it is. Your absence dulls it and makes it less.

Martin Hiraga, a queer community organizer who visited Portland from

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Norma Kraus Eule, MSW, LCSW
Licensed Clinical Social Worker

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WHERE WE'VE BEEN - an exploration of lesbian and gay history

by Stan Clough

In the French city of Orleans, in the year 1017, a "heretic-woman" from Italy was spreading seditious ideas amongst the good burghers of the community. Two men of "good birth" had already fallen under her sway. Church officials were unable to turn these people from their erroneous beliefs, so they found it necessary to expunge the heretical ideas from their presence. King Robert arrived at the city shortly after the trial to preside over the execution of these heretics. The unfortunates were burned at the stake for their crime of nonconformity. They were the first in a long line of nonconformists who would pay the ultimate price for their beliefs.

Nonconformity frightened the people of Western Europe in the Middle Ages, much as it does today. In a time when Church and State were not separate, heretical ideas - those beliefs contrary to accepted orthodoxy - were viewed as dangerous to the safety of society. Even more frightening was witchcraft, which was considered to be evidence of a direct alliance with the Devil for the destruction of the world. Not until the 15th century, though, would the ecclesiastical authorities take the idea of witches seriously, and thus take steps to root them out and annihilate them. Tied up with heresy and witchcraft at various times since the 11th century was sodomy and other sexual deviations. Since the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215, same sex love was associated with heresy, witchcraft, Islam and Judaism. Pope Gregory IX was instrumental in instituting the office of the Holy Inquisition (c. 1231) to deal with dangerous people and their ideas and actions.

Prior to the 13th century, the church dealt with deviant sexual behavior, i.e. sodomy, through the sacraments of confession and penance. For example, the 7th century Cummean Penitential prescribed penances for various sexual sins. Men over 20 accused of mutual masturbation had to perform 20 or 40 days penance for the first offense. Those under 20 guilty of kissing "without emission" had to perform eight special fasts. Prevention was the best cure, though. The Second Council of Tours

(567) ordered that monks not sleep two to a bed. Later, it was decided that a light be kept burning in the nuns' dormitories. But in the 13th century, the state felt the best penance was to die for sexual sins.

Part in parcel with sexual sin was the crime of gender distortion. Women who tried to take on the role of men were in danger of prosecution. Joan of Arc, who raised the siege of Orleans (1428) during the Hundred Years War between England and France, was the latter country's national hero. She gave the French hope during a time when France was not only being raped by England's marauding armies, but was being torn apart in a civil war between the Dauphin Charles and Burgundy. Joan was told by God to don the garb of a warrior and save her country. Because of her actions, Charles was able to become king of France in 1422. But Charles did not raise a finger to save Joan when the English put her on trial after she was captured by the Burgundians, for heresy, magic and wearing men's clothing. She was found guilty and was burned at the stake in Rouen in May, 1431.

Other women had led armies in the Middle Ages. Matilda of Tuscany in the 11th century and Blanch, Queen-Mother of France in the 13th century were careful to comport themselves as women even while destroying rebellious baron's castles. Joan committed the unpardonable sin of acting like and appearing as a man, down to cutting her hair in masculine fashion. In the new atmosphere of post-Fourth Lateran Europe, the most frightening sexual heresy - women breaking their prescribed sex and gender roles - had to be punished by the ultimate penance: death. It is ironic that the same institution that condemned Joan for her gender-bending would later make her a martyr and saint.

Books to read:

Sex in History, Reay Tunnahill

A Small Sound of the Trumpet, Margaret Wade LaBarge

The Hundred Years War, Desmond Seward ▼



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QUEER ON THE QUADS

edited by Erica Rand

by *Susanne Salkind*

former queer on the quads (Bates '90)

State Coordinator, Maine National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL)

OK, OK, so maybe Audre Lorde is right, the "Master's tools will never dismantle the master's house," but we can sure make some major renovations! There are many ways to get involved this year, and do something. The flip side of Silence Equals Death is ACTION EQUALS LIFE. So, get out of the library, watch a few less reruns of the Cosby show and Get ACTIVE!

First and foremost - VOTE! In Maine you can register to vote up to and including election day so, no excuses. Just call City Hall or any campaign office and they will let you know where to go.

Secondly, get involved with the campaigns of gay and gay-friendly candidates. It is actually a lot of fun. You meet a lot of interesting and politically-active people and get to stress and worry about something other than your job, homework or nonexistent relationship. See the following list for some suggestions of candidates and campaigns to volunteer with, and their phone numbers. For a full list of supportive candidates, contact the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance (ML/GPA) for their Voter's Guide.

EQUAL PROTECTION PORTLAND (871-9225/879-5360).

Last spring Portland's City Council passed a gay rights bill by a vote of 7-1. Shortly afterward, the opposition collected enough signatures to require a referendum over its repeal. Help EPP protect our hard won rights. The campaign is now organizing numerous events: fund-raisers, rallies, voter registration drives, etc. They need your help and money. (If you live in Portland, remember, you must vote NO in order to preserve gay and lesbian civil rights from repeal.)

State Senator Dale McCormick ((207) 377-3024). Last year Dale surprised a lot of people by upsetting an incumbent as Maine's first openly gay or lesbian candidate. During her two years in the Senate, she has spearheaded the charge for universal health care in Maine. She faces a challenge from an anti-civil rights Republican. She represents part of Kennebec County.

State Representative Susan Farnsworth ((207) 626-0330). Susan is a two-term incumbent who has worked to protect vital safety net programs and education spending from severe cuts. Susan represents the Hallowell area.

Dick Dickinson. Dick is challenging incumbent Senator Margaret Ludwig who represents a large district including parts of Aroostook, Penobscot and Washington Counties. Senator Ludwig has never supported civil rights while Dick pledges to do so. He is a generally progressive candidate: pro-choice, labor, etc.

Deborah Shaw Rice ((207) 829-3994). Deb is campaigning for an open House seat in the Cumberland area. A long-time activist for progressive causes, she helped to write the domestic violence legislation establishing protective orders.

State Representative Tom Andrews ((207) 775-1992). A one-term incumbent in the U.S. Congress, Tom faces a challenge from the infamous Linda Bean, a past congressional challenger and an heiress to the L.L. Bean fortune. In Congress, Tom was a co-sponsor of the Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights bill and a leader in the fight to implement a universal health care system in the United States. Linda Bean is an outspoken opponent of abortion rights, as well as lesbian and gay civil rights. In the past she has donated generously to the campaigns and causes of Jesse Helms, Phyllis Schlafly, and the Heritage foundation, to name a few, and she coughed up over 400,000 for her primary campaign alone. Tom needs our support now more than ever. He represents the 1st district in Maine which is roughly the southeastern part of the state.

Deborah "Arnie" Arneson ((603) 226-2422). Arnie is an all around progressive Democratic candidate for the New Hampshire Governorship. If NH is ever going to get with the program and give up its reliance on that nasty and regressive property tax, this may be the year.

Bill Clinton ((207) 874-1129). Anyone who cares about lesbian and gay civil rights must support Bill Clinton. He may not be the perfect candidate, but he is far and away the best around and more importantly, he might just win. He has publicly stated his support for both ending the military's discrimination against gays and lesbians as well as passing civil rights. Also, he has shown sincere compassion and understanding of AIDS and has pledged greater financial support for the cause if elected. Conversely, the Bush Administration and his campaign has targeted gays and lesbians, it seems, as a scapegoat for all that ails the U.S. this year in a very frightening and hateful campaign.

Finally, whenever you get the chance, ask candidates directly whether they would support a bill to outlaw discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Make them answer. They are there to represent all of us. ▼

CALENDAR

FRIDAY 10/2

Lee Lynch reads from her new novel at Lunaria Bookstore, Northampton, MA, 7pm.

SATURDAY 10/3

Northern Lambda Nord Annual Membership Drive Party, 8pm, New Sweden, ME. FMI ☎ (207) 498-2088.

SUNDAY 10/4

The 1992 AIDS Walk in Brunswick, ME. Registration begins at 11:30am & opening ceremonies & bake sale at 12:30pm. Walk begins at 1pm. FMI ☎ (207) 725-4955 (Merrymaking AIDS Support Services).

MONDAY 10/5

Equal Protection/Portland One City Ctr, Portland, ME, 7pm at old "Impressions" store above the food cts. Fight the referendum! Info line (207) 780-5656.

TUESDAY 10/6

Feminists Against Rape (FAR) meets every Tues. 7pm, Portland, ME for discussion and planning. If you are a feminist determined to help make Portland a city free of sexual violence, ☎ (207) 772-0935 or (207) 772-5941 for location.

John Preston presents keynote address at Wilde-Stein Club, 8pm, 101 Neville Hall, UM-Orono, ME. FMI ☎ (207) 587-8773.

WEDNESDAY 10/7

Human Rights Benefit Concert and Dance at T-Birds. \$5/adm. Lime Rockets, Jenny Woodman, Pluck Theatre. A benefit for Equal Protection/Portland. FMI ☎ (207) 780-5656.

John Preston presents his latest book, *A Member of the Family*, as well as his other books, at

the University Bookstore at UM-Orono, 11am. FMI ☎ (207) 587-8773.

THURSDAY 10/8

April 25, 1993 March on Washington will be discussed by Mo Baxley & Derrick Livingston, New England organizers. Matlovich, Rines Aud., Portland Library, 5 Monument Sq., 7:30-9pm.

FRIDAY 10/9

MAW meeting at Sue and Marty's, 7:30pm, Keene, NH. FMI ☎ (603) 357-5757.

Take the bus to D.C. to view the entire AIDS Quilt. Leave Keene, NH at 10pm, spend Sat. viewing the quilt & attending the candlelight march to the Lincoln Memorial & return to Keene that night. \$75/person. FMI ☎ Frank Kellom (603) 357-0979 or POB 348, Keene, NH 03431.

SATURDAY 10/10

Take Back the Night March and Rally, Portland, ME, 7:30pm, Monument Sq. Women only - all women welcome. Separate men's vigil in support of the march will be held. FMI ☎ (207) 879-0877 (Kathryn) or (207) 871-0618 (Jennifer).

Amelia's Potluck at Lynn & Anne's. FMI ☎ (802) 685-2146.

SUNDAY 10/11

National Coming Out Day!

MONDAY 10/12

Equal Protection/Portland meeting (see 8/7).

TUESDAY 10/13

FAR meeting (see 10/6).

SATURDAY 10/17

Northern Lambda Nord Discussion group & potluck FMI ☎ (207) 498-2088.

SUNDAY 10/18

Drumming Workshop by Nurudafina 12-3pm, W. Buxton. Space is limited. \$25 FMI ☎ (207) 929-3866 (Rita) or (207) 247-3461 (Beth).

MONDAY 10/19

Equal Protection/Portland meeting (see 10/5).

TUESDAY 10/20

FAR meeting (see 10/6).

THURSDAY 10/22

Brooke Alexander, Episcopal priest & counselor, & Sandy Titus R.N., the AIDS Project lead discussion on "Spiritual Ministry and Personal Empowerment. Matlovich, Rines Aud., Portland Library, 5 Monument Sq., 7:30-9pm.

FRIDAY 10/23

Jyl Lynn Felman reads stories at Lunaria Bookstore, Northampton, MA, 7pm.

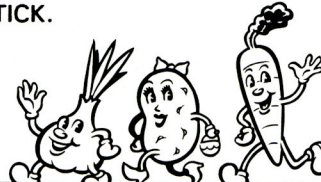
SUNDAY 10/25

Northern Lambda Nord monthly meeting, 3pm, Van Buren, ME. FMI ☎ (207) 498-2088.

MONDAY 10/26

Equal Protection/Portland meeting (see 10/5).

Cris Williamson at the Iron Horse, Northampton, MA, 7pm, \$17.50/adv. FMI ☎ 1-800-THE-TICK.



TUESDAY 10/27

FAR meeting (see 10/6).

THURSDAY 10/29

Tony Ogden of Equal Protection Colorado and Mary Bonauto of GLAD speak at USM Campus Center. 7pm (possible visit by Tom Andrews!).

SATURDAY 10/31

Northern Lambda Nord Halloween costume party, 8pm, Presque Isle, ME. FMI ☎ (207) 498-2088.

MEDIA

WMPG'S Women's Music Fest on 90.9 FM 3-5pm Sundays.

The ACT UP Portland's Pissed Off Dykes' Cell (PODC) and Portland Womyn's Health Action Crew (WHAC) are putting together a survey about lesbian sex and wants to know what you want to know. Send the questions you'd like to see on the survey to:

PODC/WHAC

c/o APEX

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PEACE IN UNITY - Maine Native American Appreciation Day

by Maureen Hannigan

The first annual Maine Native American Appreciation Day celebration was held September 12-13 at the Cumberland Fairgrounds. The two days of unity, of respect for different ways, and honoring was attested to in the Governor's Official Proclamation:

Whereas, the Native American People...have taught us the need to respect all living things; and

Whereas, techniques of land preservation, foods, herbs, and medicines handed down from generation to generation have helped to feed and heal people from around the world....

We arrived at 8:00 a.m. Saturday to the grand surge of life that accompanies setting up a village gathering. Many participants had been working through the night to prepare for this day. The glory of the Saturday morning sunshine was reflected in every corner, in the faces of all the people working to accomplish "readiness" in time.

In cautious awareness of how our ancestors conquered native lands, we were very watchful of ways to be an ally, a support. We were in their village this day...on their terms...not ours. The red-shirted "peacekeepers" requested us not to applaud as we were not being entertained...and not to break the sacred circles unless invited appropriately.

The talk of the day was centered on teaching all our children what supports their growth throughout life, what strengthens and encourages their roots to go deeply in Mother Earth...nourished and nurtured by her. These were not specific workshop teachings but on-going conversations between all of us...common ground, as it were.

The artisans/crafters shared not only their symbolisms and skill, but were wonderfully open to telling us how they had acquired a moose fur, or what relative had gifted the buffalo hide that resulted in the knife sheath before us.

Judy Crow, the storyteller, told us another somber story of devastation by the recent hurricane. While she and her husband, Frank, were on the annual Pow-Wow circuit, the hurricane demolished their whole village, the families losing everything. She's gathering workable sewing machines and fabrics to deliver to her people so they can continue to earn their living creating native clothing.

Elders from many nations walked among us and talked of peace and unity...of being one with all living things. A warrior in full regalia rode around the grounds on a young Appaloosa...only one...silently gorgeous and alarmingly eloquent as to what we as a nation have conspired to eliminate from our lives...the sacredness of diversity.

The full moon's light illuminated two circles Saturday night...the inner circle around the sacred fire of Native American families and the outer one of their allies and supporters. Who there was not remembering an ancient night?? Of circles, of allies? Of people recognizing generous hearts, no matter what their disguise. There is always room for you in these circles! Ho! ▼

More BUSINESS from page 3

D.C. in September, said then that a generation of lesbians and gays is only about five to seven years long. Some generations in this town, he said, have learned to place discretion above all other values, some put openness above all, and many don't go by generation anyhow. But this need not mean only hostility among us. There is room for both candor and diplomacy in this campaign - it's too short a time to get rid of either. So come on. This is our show of strength and pride. Five hours' work and you've earned the victory. Make a start.

Equal Protection/Portland: Meets every Mon. at 7pm. To volunteer: 761-8480. To contribute money: POB 1894, Portland, ME 04104
ACT UP/Condom Crusade: 774-8475



MONAHAN ASSOCIATES

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WHAT YOU CAN DO TO FIGHT FOR THE PORTLAND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE

- Join Equal Protection/Portland
- Volunteer your time on the campaign
- Contribute money - all donations help
- Write letters to newspapers
- Talk to neighbors/friends/relatives about why they should VOTE NO on the November referendum
- Encourage friends/family to give \$\$
- Make sure you register and VOTE NO!

Equal Protection Portland
P.O. Box 1894
Portland, Maine 04104
(207) 879-5360

ASK THIGHMASTER

Dear Thighmaster,

I am a woman in distress. A month ago, while my lover and I were writhing in a sexual frenzy at her cabin in Big Bear, California, I suddenly felt the vibrations I had always feared the most: we were right in the middle of a 7.2 earthquake. Although we were physically unhurt, much damage was done. I'm losing my grip on reality: I spend all my time stockpiling batteries and water (I've stored 700 gallons), and I still expect the ground to open up and swallow me whole at any minute. But worst of all, Thighmaster, I am unable to enjoy sex. Each time we make love, I flip out and flash back and lurch about and cry and shake. I lose control of all ability to perform or be fulfilled. After all this time, I feel frustration and concern for our relationship. Maggie has decided that the only way to conquer my fears is to spend another weekend at her cabin, a prospect that terrifies me. Is this the only way to save my love life?

QUIVERING KATIE

Dear Quivering,

Take some comfort in the knowledge that by sharing your story, you have made one small contribution to ridding civilization of some of those tedious good-sex-is-like-a-natural-disaster metaphors. I'm sure people reading your tale of woe will think twice before they litter the cultural scene with more overblown effusions like "I felt the earth move," "I felt like I had been

struck by lightning," or "our passion was a brushfire/hurricane/tornado that was burning/raging/whirling out of control."

But, as Thighmaster well knows, the satisfaction of serving humanity cannot



drawing by Naomi Falcone

compensate for a good orgasm. On this problem, Thighmaster has several thoughts. First, chill. So sex has been bad for a month - even Thighmaster has gone for 30 days without good sex, albeit unhappily. It's too early for your self-loathing and her ultimatums. Second, why does Maggie think that your cure lies in having sex with her? Maybe you should try some solo fantasy sessions, in which you don't have to worry about pleasing some impatient sex-starved lover, and can concentrate on making sex and nature less scary for you. Thighmaster recommends that you use one of those quiet-intimacy-at-the-beach scenes to go for a "gentle wave" orgasm, and

slowly work back up to the cataclysmic. Or maybe you could rescue your sexual pleasure by doing it with some other woman (especially some new one you've been secretly hot for who also has another lover - there's nothing like the thrill of the new and forbidden to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles). And maybe Maggie could be more patient if she got it somewhere else for a while. If you two have made some vow of monogamy, then either Maggie needs to accept the fact that these dry spells are part of the monogamy package, or you two need to have that conversation - highly recommended by Thighmaster for all those "once I was half, now I'm whole" duos - about why this monogamy thing looked so great in the first place. Thighmaster hesitates to shake your foundations further, but, hey, you've got no solid ground under you anyway, so why not (to mix some nature metaphors) take the fiery plunge into total uprootedness, and reassess whether monogamy is the ground upon which you really want to rebuild your foundation. If you shift your focus from the realm of nature (which terrifies Thighmaster even in its most benevolent manifestations) to the arena of those much touted "family values," you might find that some earthshaking destruction suits you fine.

Thighmaster eagerly awaits your submissions. No problem is too complicated or twisted! Thighmaster, c/o Phoenix Press, PO Box 4743, Portland, ME 04112. ▼



More NEWS from page 1

WRONG, SAYS QUAYLE

Following is an excerpt from an interview with Vice President Dan Quayle by ABC's Chris Wallace on a recent Primetime Live.

W: Mr. Vice President, what's wrong with being Gay?

Q: I think it's a wrong choice that one makes.

W: Do you think it's a sickness?

Q: It's a lifestyle that one, I think, basically chooses, although there's an argument over whether it's biological or not.

W: Do you think it's immoral?

Q: I'd use the word 'wrong.'

W: Should Gays be able to live where they want?

Q: Why not?

W: Should they be able to work where they want?

Q: Absolutely. They do, and we have a policy of non-discrimination.

W: No problem with Gays, for instance, as teachers?

Q: No problem with Gays as teachers as long as they don't advocate their lifestyle as preferable.

W: You have no problem with the idea of a private life -

Q: Private life, that's their decision. I think it's a wrong decision just like I think abortion is a wrong decision. But that's their choice.

This month's NEWS comes from
Washington Blade and Chicago Outlines.

More LETTERS from page 2

state - not in Maine and certainly not in our store or with our money.

In sadness,
Jim & Roger

Editorial Response:

It is somewhat unclear how a second-hand account concerning the actions of two women "from" our publication could succeed in describing the editorial stance of the APEX collective. Instead, this account at best describes the actions of two women at a party. The collective consists of four members with differing philosophies and political views. The newsjournal itself in turn reflects many more visions than these four. How, then, can two living women at a party be "from our publication," or singlehandedly representative of it?

It is very puzzling that some should feel threatened when women choose not to give men their time, energy and other expected kinds of service. How can self-removal be decried as an act of violent hatred? Instead, it is an act of self-preservation, much as the formation of lesbian and gay bars and neighborhoods and societies and newspapers and friendships are acts of self-preservation. Most women must work for men, just as most lesbian and gay people must work for heterosexual employers. Not all women choose to spend all their free time also in the company of men.

You speak of Portland's civil rights battle. As lesbians and gay men and queers without civil rights in this country, as disenfranchised people, we must always keep in mind the kindred struggles of African-American people. Black civil rights would not have won out without the pressure Black revolutionaries brought to bear on white America. The movement energized by Malcolm X was a separatist movement: the move was to stop the flow of Black money out of Black neighborhoods, to function under a morality derived by and for Black people, to focus on one's own cultural pride. Some called these beliefs, and later called affirmative action, "reverse racism." There is no such thing. Racism, like sexism, and like homophobia, is not symmetrical: the oppressed do not have the institutional power to do to the colonizers what is done to the colonized.

Unfortunately, this false idea of symmetry - in this case, "reverse sexism" or what you call "man hate" - is still pervasive. It is all too clear that what you yourselves term a "conservative white male dominated society" is at work here: a male-run business is withdrawing its funds from a small, profitless newsjournal run by four working-class lesbians. Who is really ripping the community?

The best you can do to further the toppling of heteropatriarchy is to support those people who, feeling the pressure most, decide to withdraw and resist the system. ▼

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RESOURCE GUIDE

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HOT-LINES

The AIDS Line: 1-800-851-AIDS or 775-1267. Questions or concerns re: HIV/AIDS? Call Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm, Mon. & Wed. eve. until 7:30pm. Always anonymous.

Dial Kids, 774-TALK - for lesbian, gay, bisexual & questioning youth under 19 yrs of age.

Gay-Lesbian Phoneline, Caribou area: (207)498-2088.

Gay Info Line, Concord, NH (603) 224-1686

Ingraham Volunteers (207) 774-HELP.

PUBLICATIONS

OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS

P.O. Box 177
Burlington, VT 05402

R.A.G.

Box 3293
N. Conway, NH 03860
Quarterly newsletter for women living or vacationing in western ME and Mt. Washington Valley of NH.

SOCIAL GROUPS

AM CHOFSHI - Maine Lesbian/Gay Jewish group, meets monthly. FMI ☐ (207) 871-1014 (Bob).

MOUNTAIN VALLEY MEN - Box 36, Center Conway, NH 03813. Social group for gay men from western ME & eastern NH. Potlucks & activities. FMI ☐ (207) 925-1034 (Paul).

OUT AND ABOUT - lesbian social & support group. Meets Mon, 7pm, Portsmouth, NH. For sample newsletter and FMI write OAA, POB 332, Portsmouth, NH 03802-0332 or ☐ (603) 659-2139.

SEACOAST GAY MEN meets Mon. 7pm, Unitarian-Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH PO Box 1394, Portsmouth, NH 03802. FMI ☐ (603) 898-1115.

TIME OUT - Outdoor recreation and environmental club for lesbians, gay

men & friends. Free newsletter lists outdoor sports, instructional and environmentally related events for the NH and ME area. FMI ☐ (603) 749-1449 or SASE to Time Out, c/o 17 First St., Suite 6, Dover, NH 03820.

SUPPORT GROUPS

ACOA - Lesbian and gay mtg. Thurs. 6-7:30 pm, Mon. 7-8:30 pm. YWCA, Portland, ME.

THE AIDS PROJECT - 22 Monument Square, 5th Fl., Portland, ME 04101 FMI ☐ (207)774-6877 about various support groups in Portland, Auburn/Lewiston & Brunswick, ME areas.

ANDROSCOGGIN VALLEY AIDS COALITION (AVAC) - 70 Court St., 2nd Fl., Auburn, ME. Support grp for people with HIV & their loved ones. Thurs. 7pm. FMI ☐ (207) 786-4697.

GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL PARENTS GROUP OF MAINE - FMI ☐ (207) 772-4741 (Frank).

INTEGRITY - St. Matthew's Church, 18 Union St., Hallowell, ME. Meets 1st Fri. of the month, 7pm. FMI ☐ (207) 622-6631.

L-ACOA/AL-ANON - Lesbian mtg. Tues. 7-8:30 pm, 7 Middle St., Brunswick, ME (behind U.U. Church on Pleasant St. in dtwn Brunswick, opp. public library) FMI ☐ Gail (207) 833-6004.

MIDCOAST MAINE PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS (PFLAG) - 18 Douglas St., Brunswick, ME 04011. Info. & HELPLINE (207) 729-0519 (Sally & Gene). Lit. for & about parents, coming out materials, speakers, contacts with over 300 PFLAG chapters.

MONADNOCK AREA WOMYN (MAW)
P.O. Box 6345
Keene, NH 03431
(603) 357-5757

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD
POB 990, Caribou, ME 04736; (207) 498-2088. NLN (founded 1980) serves Aroostook Co. & New Brunswick towns; sponsors social activities, discussion grps and

speakers bureau; publishes monthly newsletter & activities calendar.

OUTRIGHT/PORTLAND - Weekly meeting for support, information, fun & special events for gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning youth under 22 yrs of age, 72 Pine St., Portland, ME, Fri. 7:30-9:30pm. FMI: Outright, Portland Alliance of Gay & Lesbian Youth, POB 5028, Station A, Portland, ME 04101.

OUTRIGHT/CENTRAL MAINE - Group for lesbian and gay youth 22 & under, meets Fri. 7:30 pm, 1st Unitarian Church, Pleasant St., Auburn, ME. PO Box 802, Auburn, ME 04212 ☐ 1-800-339-4042.

PWA COALITION OF MAINE
377 Cumberland Avenue
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 773-8500

RUMFORD/MEXICO AREA AIDS SUPPORT GROUP - Mon. at Mexico Congregational Church (the "Green Church") 7-8:30pm. Main St., Mexico, ME. FMI☐ (207)369-0259.

LIFESTYLES ALLIANCE - meets Fri. Noon at the UNE campus. U. of New England, 11 Hills Beach Rd., Biddeford, ME 04005 FMI ☐ (207) 283-0171 x372.

MERRYMEETING AIDS

SUPPORT SERVICES - P.O. Box 57, Brunswick, ME 04011-0057. Provides support group services regarding AIDS & HIV. FMI ☐ (207)725-4955.

OUT FOR GOOD - Lesbian discussion/support grp. Thurs. 7-9pm, 1st Parish Church, 15 Beach St., Saco, ME. Issues relevant to lesbian lifestyle. Free/\$1 donation requested for room rental. Confidential, non-smoking meeting. FMI ☐ Bobbi after 5:30pm (207) 247-3461.

WOMEN'S INCEST AND SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS' GROUP

Open support/discussion for women only. At Women's Forum on USM campus (86 Winslow St.) Weds. 12:30-2:00pm. FMI ☐ (207) 874-6593.

POLITICAL

APOLLO SOCIETY - For New England's gay/lesbian atheists, free-thinkers, ethical humanists & Hellenists. Free speech & civil rights advocacy, freedom-from-religion support and guilt free fun! FMI ☐ (207) 773-5626 or SASE to POB 5301, Portland, ME 04101.

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ALSO, Plymouth State College, Plymouth
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Rainbow Coalition, Montpelier
The Onion River Co-op, Burlington
GLB Alliance, UVM, Burlington

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Portland Public Library
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The AIDS Project
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Raffles Cafe
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Zootz
YWCA
Sabatos
Limelight
Chartroom
Videoport
Blackstones
Whole Grocer
Good Day Market
Women's Forum, USM
Student Center, USM

CLASSIFIED

AIDS COALITION TO UNLEASH POWER (ACT UP/Portland)

142 High St., Suite 222 Portland, ME 04101; (207) 828-0566; FAX: (207) 828-0566. Meets Sun. 7pm at YWCA (87 Spring St., Portland, ME).

EQUAL PROTECTION/ PORTLAND
POB 1894, Portland, ME 04104 (207)879-5360. Volunteer to help save Portland's Human Rights Ordinance. All individuals welcome.

F.A.R. (FEMINISTS AGAINST RAPE)
A feminist/activist group seeking to stop sexism in the media, courts and streets. 1 in 3 women is sexually assaulted in America. These are the hate crime times. Meets weekly. FMI☎ (207) 772-5941 or (207) 772-0935.

GREATER PORTLAND N.O.W. - c/o YWCA, 87 Spring St., Ptd, ME 04101, (207)879-0877 (Catherine) or (207)871-0618 (Jennifer). Mail: PO Box 4012, Portland, ME 04101. An action-oriented group. Primary goals are three-fold: (1) foster Equal Rights for women; (2) insure unrestricted choice around reproductive rights; (3) support Lesbian and Gay rights. Speakers and events for the public on the 4th Tuesday of every month.

Maine Bisexual People's Network, POB 10772, Portland, ME 04104, meets third Sunday, 1-4pm, Powers House, USM, 96 Bedford St. (actually Winslow St.), Portland, ME.

HEY KIDS!! WANNA BE FAMOUS?

We (that's *APEX*) are looking for some readers *with not much time on their hands*. Courageous, vanguard-type people who have something to say but might be constrained by cruel limits of time and energy. That's right, we're looking for special MICRO-CORRESPONDENTS to write about *anything* their hearts desire (a vague relation to things queer would be appreciated by the MICRO editor, who intends to keep a discrete distance).

Here are the rules: articles cannot exceed two average paragraphs (or about 4-6 inches of valuable *APEX* column). We like real names but don't want you to lose your job over this, either. Please include a phone number with your first submission (we may want to call to see how busy you *really* are). Typed or legibly written, please. And you can drop out when you'd like. So when you have a moment send your column (with a title, perhaps) to:

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PERSONALS

Just want to say "Hi" to the woman I love -- and thank her for her understanding during the week after deadline when I devote most of my spare time to getting out the next issue of *APEX*. Love ya lots and lots! DJM

Queer male who has outgrown the bar scene is looking for a like-minded man who is ready for an easy-going honey. Only one thing gives me more satisfaction than a long, hot bike ride through the countryside. Reply Box 201 c/o Phoenix Press.

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